

Response Rates for the 2011 Annual Survey of Public Employment and Payroll

The preliminary estimates for the Annual Survey of Public Employment and Payroll were released on August 23, 2012. All unit response rates were above the U.S. Census Bureau's standards threshold of 60 percent. The Census Bureau also has a standard on the Total Quantity response, which is a measure of the portion of the estimate of interest that is accounted for by responses. The rate must be above 70 percent. For example, the Total Quantity Response Rate (TQRR) for the number of full-time employees in a state must be above 70 percent, or at least 70 percent of the estimated total number of the full-time employees must come from responses. Because the data for 2011 come from a sample of governments, the numerator and denominator of the TQRR must be weighted.

The TQRRs for 2011 were usually above the 70 percent standard with some notable exceptions. There are nine states (Arkansas, Connecticut, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, New Jersey, New Mexico and Pennsylvania) that are noncompliant for at least one local government TQRR. See the accompanying Table A.

There are thirteen states (Colorado, Illinois, Kansas, Maryland, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, and Rhode Island) that have state government TQRRs that do not meet Census Bureau TQRR standards. In all states, the state government TQRRs were affected by poor response from one or two large state colleges/universities. Consequently, the data user should beware of education data from these states.

For the 2011 Survey, more extensive non-response follow-up efforts will be taken to try to obtain data from the nonrespondents identified as critical prior to release of the survey's final estimates in December 2012. Further research will be conducted on local governments to identify governmental units contributing to the low TQRRs in those noncompliant states.

Table A: Noncompliant Response Rates for the 2011 Annual Survey of Public Employment and Payroll

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 Annual Survey of Public Employment and Payroll

State	FT Employees	FT Payroll	PT Employees	PT Payroll	Total Employees	Total Payroll
State and Local Government TQRRs (in percent)						
Colorado	82.7%	81.0%	64.0%	57.8%	76.5%	77.9%
Illinois	85.4%	84.5%	71.8%	64.4%	81.5%	82.8%
Maryland	76.3%	75.5%	65.1%	58.9%	73.9%	74.1%
Massachusetts	73.8%	73.6%	66.3%	68.6%	72.0%	73.2%
Nebraska	77.4%	75.4%	70.4%	63.2%	75.5%	74.4%
New Jersey	78.8%	77.9%	64.8%	65.9%	75.6%	77.2%
New Mexico	77.8%	77.4%	65.9%	61.3%	75.3%	76.3%
Oklahoma	85.6%	83.3%	73.8%	65.0%	83.2%	82.1%
Rhode Island	81.2%	81.0%	64.7%	62.4%	77.6%	80.0%
Local Government TQRRs (in percent)						
Arkansas	78.3%	76.6%	68.3%	67.4%	76.6%	76.2%
Connecticut	72.9%	72.3%	68.3%	65.3%	71.8%	71.8%
Louisiana	76.5%	74.9%	68.7%	79.3%	75.2%	75.2%
Massachusetts	69.1%	69.0%	55.9%	56.9%	66.1%	68.2%
Michigan	74.0%	68.1%	73.3%	68.4%	73.8%	68.1%
Mississippi	77.0%	73.4%	72.2%	65.2%	76.2%	72.8%
New Jersey	75.0%	74.2%	66.6%	66.3%	73.1%	73.8%
New Mexico	76.5%	76.0%	75.9%	65.2%	76.4%	75.4%
Pennsylvania	79.3%	76.1%	72.3%	68.6%	77.6%	75.7%
State Government TQRRs (in percent)						
Colorado	71.7%	66.9%	52.5%	44.7%	63.2%	62.0%
Illinois	76.9%	75.0%	47.9%	31.9%	67.3%	69.5%
Kansas	77.5%	74.4%	61.9%	63.2%	72.8%	73.4%
Maryland	73.4%	69.0%	41.7%	29.2%	68.5%	65.1%
Missouri	72.1%	63.6%	48.9%	41.7%	66.7%	61.9%
Nebraska	54.9%	49.3%	18.1%	13.7%	44.6%	45.8%
New Jersey	87.3%	85.8%	60.1%	65.1%	81.4%	84.6%
New Mexico	80.1%	79.6%	54.1%	57.3%	73.6%	77.7%
North Dakota	66.6%	67.7%	56.1%	65.2%	62.8%	67.4%
Ohio	72.7%	70.3%	56.2%	56.6%	66.3%	68.7%
Oklahoma	81.8%	76.8%	64.3%	50.9%	76.3%	74.1%
Oregon	77.5%	75.0%	29.1%	56.3%	63.1%	73.0%
Rhode Island	78.4%	77.8%	44.3%	44.3%	68.7%	75.5%